

In the beginning of 1774 Capt. Cochrane purchased a Company, and went abroad to America as Captain in the 4.th Regiment

He was employed by Lord Percy as one of the Officers he sent privately the Evening before the Affair of Lexington upon a very trying Service, and during the following Day Captain Cochrane had much to do in assisting his Father in Law Major Putnam who was after killed in the Action of Bunkers Hill

Captain Cochrane was then appointed to the Grenadier Company upon Capt. West being wounded and going to England

On the 29.th Aug.^r 1776 having the Oldest Company of Grenadiers in the Army and consequently being on the Right of that Corps, he was so situated as to endeavour to take an active part, His Company went particularly Close to the Rebel Lines and were with difficulty restrained from being in them.

Until the 20.th Sep.^r, the Affair of White Plains, he continued to serve in the Grenadiers, Capt. West returning about that Time from England, and Capt. Evelyn of the Light Infantry being killed, he resigned the Grenadiers to their former Captain, and

took the Command of the Vacant Light Company, which he had the honor to Command from that Time until the Embarkation of the 4.th Regiment for the West-Indies in 1770.

This Company was present on every Service and the active part they ever took in the Moment of Action is known to his Superior Officers and Contemporaries.

After many Losses during the Winters Duty at Brunswick in 1770 his Company in the Action at Brandywine lost an Officer and 11 Men in forcing that part of the Rebel Line where their Five Field pieces were.

In the Action of German town he lost an Officer and 5 Men — during this Day being joined by the 42.^d Light Company and half of the 17.th he had the fortune to meet the 9.th Virginia Regiment which had penetrated through the British Line, and were pillaging the Wigwams of the 4.th & 42.^d Light Companies when they were attacked and totally destroyed by the above two Companies and a half

This Campaign his Company had 2 Officers & 22 Men killed or Wounded

At Philadelphia in 1770 having been Six years an Ensign, Six a Lieutenant, and near five a Captain.

He Memorialled Sir William Howe to be permitted to purchase (if no Senior Captain in the Regiment would) (the Majority of the 4.th Regiment expected soon to be Vacant by the intended promotion of Major Balfour to the Lieut. Colonelcy of the 23.^d Regim.^t

Captain Cochrane had not the Happiness to be permitted, and Sir James Murray rather than an Older Captain, but not near so long in the Service, was put over his Head as Major into the 4.th Regiment.

Flurried by his Want of Success or Interest to effectuate his Preferment, and desirous to obtain it in any Way, he soon after consented to Exchange his Company for a Lieutenantcy in the 1st Guards, an Exchange which has been attended with much Expence to him, and was permitted to serve in America as Major of the British Legion — which Sir Henry Clinton had about that Time honoured him with.

In this Corps he has continued to serve ever since, particularly inspecting the Infantry of it.

He was the first who introduced into the Army the Species of Service of Mounted Light Infantry a kind of Corps theretofore unknown, though the subsequent Advantages have been found from much Experience to Answer the fullest Expectations.

The Cavalry and Infantry of the Legion has ever moved together, and have gone with Confidence any distance from the Main Army when mutually supporting one another.

Zealous for the Honor of the Corps and to promote the Service, the Infantry have Chearfully often rode Eighty Miles in Twenty four Hours without either Bridle or Saddle, and only a Blanket and piece of Rope Substituted as Bridle, assisting their Cavalry to surprize and beat the Enemy.

With Confidence Capt. Cochrane may say that no Cavalry can or has acted in America until the Cooperation of Mounted Infantry was introduced with them and that upon every Occasion the Infantry of the Legion have bore an ample Share of either fatigue or Honor in all Actions since the Formation of the Corps, which the following Extracts from public Orders and Instances of their Conduct will Testify.

Charles Town 12th May 1780

Copy of Sir Henry Clintons Thanks to the
Army and particularly to Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton
and the Corps of Cavalry.

And to the Infantry of the Legion for their
Soldierlike Conduct and Gallantry which gives
them such Brilliant Advantage over the Enemy

Campden June 1st

Orders

Lord Cornwallis desires that Lieut. Colonel
Tarleton Major Cochrane and the Officers and Soldiers
of the Legion and Detachment serving with them will
accept of his warmest Acknowledgments for the Splendid
Services they have rendered their Country by the Gallant
Action of the 29th of May.

The Rapidity of their March and the Vigour
of their Attack will ever reflect the highest Honour on
them, the Brilliant Success will be a memorable proof
of the undaunted Courage of the Soldiers, and the
distinguished Abilities of the Officers by whom they were
Commanded.

In February 1779 the Infantry had the
pleasure to execute Sir William Erskines Orders with
Success in protecting some Government Vessels at
Sagg Harbour when attacked by a formidable Rebel
Fleet, and even took from them a New Continental Brig
of Sixteen Six pounders, which is now a Sloop of War
in his Majestys Service

In the Surprize of the Rebel Dragoons at
Monks Corner this Campaign by dismounting the Infantry
when in the Village, we were enabled to Attack the Rebels
when they defended their Houses at Night, and pursue those
who attempted to Escape.

Major Verner of the Rebel Legion and many others suffered from this Sort of Service

During the Blockade of Charlestown a Number of Sloops and Schooners having been taken on the Wardoo River by the Legion Infantry, with the Approbation of the Commander in Chief, they fitted these Vessels up with 10 pounders and Manned them, and were the means of Compleating the difficulties thrown in the Way of the Rebels escaping by Cooper or Wardoo Rivers.

In the Action of Leneus Ferry the 6.th of May where Lieut.^t Colonel Tarleton (as he has ever done) gained much Honorable Advantage over the Rebels, the Mounted Infantry were up, and pursued the Rebel Dragoons into the Swamp destroying many of them in it, and the Santee River

After the Surrender of Charlestown a large Body of Rebels were endeavouring to retire by the back parts of the province, and being far a head of Lord Cornwallis's Corps, his Lordship the 27.th of May detached Lieut.^t Colonel Tarleton & Major Cockrane with the Cavalry and Infantry of the Legion with directions to harraß and impede their Retreat as much as possible.

The Infantry though not half mounted then got all to Campden in two Days which is 60 Miles and it being necessary to push the Rebels without Loss of Time, Colonel Beaufort having got three Days March a head, the whole Corps moved at 2 o'Clock the following Morning, though two Companies were not then Complated with Horses, they were however Mounted before they marched 20 Miles, and except the Guard left with their 3 pounders the Infantry of the Legion were fortunately up at the Moment of attacking the Rebels at Waxaw,

Their Conduct on this Occasion, and the part they contributed towards the Success of the Day was as much as Men could do.

The Advantages resulting from having Infantry up, will appear from the Opinions and Conduct of the Rebel Officers at the Commencement of this Action

While Capt. Cochrane was dismounting and forming the Infantry opposite the Rebel Centre he heard a Rebel Officer upon the Right call to his Men.

"be cool and take Care what they were about, that it was only a few Light Horse and they would give a good Account of them."

He was Answered by another Officer upon the Left.

"He was Mistaken, he was mistaken, do you see here, there is Infantry."

On this Occasion the Infantry never fired a Shot but used their Bayonets, and had two valuable Officers killed.

By Capt. Ross Lord Cornwallis's Aid de Camp he is informed, on every Occasion since Capt. Cochrane quitted them they have behaved with equal Spirit

The very considerable Loss they have sustained this Campaign in Officers, will Testify the particular Share they have had in every Enterprize, having from the 29.th of May had 1 Capt. 3 Lieut.^s killed & 2 Lieut.^s wounded, making near half the Loss of the whole Army employed there

After the Action at Waxaw the Campaign not being expected to commence again before the Month of October or November, as Capt. Cochrane had not been in England for near Seven Years and having a Family there to attend to, he thought the then Respite a favorable opportunity to Visit them, intending

to return to America as soon as he could settle his private Affairs which it became necessary for him to attend to, having his Father in Law Major Pitcairn killed in America, and his Father Lord Dundonald dead at home since his serving in that Country

He therefore made Application to Lord Cornwallis at Campden for his permission to go to England, and was honored with the annexed Testimony of his Lordships Approbation

Campden June 10th 1780.

Dear Sir

I cannot let you go from hence without expressing the very sincere regret I feel at your leaving my Corps, and Assuring you that on any future Occasion I shall be happy in serving with so able and Spirited an Officer, I heartily wish you a prosperous Voyage, and a happy Meeting with your Family, and am with great Regard

Your most Obedient and
Faithful Servant

Honble Major Cochrane.

Cornwallis.

Capt. Cochrane repaired to New York where he was further favored with the Commander in Chief's permission and Confidence, and was entrusted with his Excellency's Dispatches for Government with which he was endeavouring to get to England in a small Schooner of his own, when attacked at Sea the 16th of August by three Rebel privateers; he only then saved himself by securing the Men sent to Board his Schooner and sinking their Boats, after delivering the prisoners he had taken at

New York; in proceeding up the Sound he was again attacked by Two Rebel privateers from New England Shore and after a Resistance of 3 Hours ^{near} within Sight of a British Man of War and not more than a League from her was obliged to abandon his Schooner and swim a Shore to save his Dispatches leaving every other Thing.

Capt. Cochrane has been now upwards of Eighteen Years in the Army has hardly ever been absent from his Regiment or Service during that Time

He has purchased every Commission And what he at present holds has been attended with particular Expence to him

Almost every Cotemporary has acquired the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel before him, The only Rank which gives an Officer a Chance of Command and an Opportunity of exerting himself when fit for Service.

He humbly hopes your Lordship will be pleased to take his Services and Case into Consideration and grant him the honor of your Lordships Countenance in obtaining Advancement in his profession.